

PROJECT Self-brand milestone: Inspiration Board by Renee Apelo

I like to do projects involving a mix of graphic design and animation. I want to create original cartoon and anime-inspired characters digitally. Japanese anime and manga draw inspiration primarily from Japanese culture, history, mythology, and traditional art forms while also incorporating influences from Western animation, leading to a unique blend of storytelling and visual style that reflects contemporary Japanese society and explores diverse themes across various genres like shonen, shoujo, josei, and seinen.

Colors:

Japanese anime and manga often utilize a wide range of colors. Still, some common themes include vibrant primary colors like bright blues, reds, yellows, and greens, with frequent use of black and white for contrast, often with distinct hair colors like pink, purple, blue, and green, depending on the character and story; there isn't one single "typical" color scheme as different anime and manga have unique color palettes to fit their aesthetic and themes. While bright colors are prevalent, some anime may use muted palettes depending on the story's mood. Anime characters often have unique hair colors like pink, blue, green, or silver, which can be a defining feature. Colors can be used symbolically to convey emotions or character traits. Anime often employs a "cel-shading" technique where colors are flat with minimal shading, creating a distinct visual style.

Typography:

Japanese anime and manga combine kanji, hiragana, katakana, and the Latin alphabet. These alphabets are used in the same sentence, each with its visual weight, texture, and rules. Kanji, hiragana, and katakana are the three alphabets used in Japanese writing. A single sentence can use all three alphabets. Mincho: A style of typography that uses contrasting horizontal and vertical strokes. Mincho typefaces often have a small triangle called "uroko" in the stroke. E. Katakana is a traditional Japanese font that looks like katakana and can be read vertically or horizontally. It can be used for business cards, logos, flyers, and menu designs. Written Japanese uses thousands of characters across the four character sets. Each character set has its purpose and rules.

Style:

Japanese anime and manga styles can vary widely. Still, some common ones include shonen (for boys), shoujo (for girls), seinen (for mature men), josei (for mature women), chibi (cute, minor characters), kawaii (cute aesthetic), realistic, and more (exaggerated cuteness), with each style often distinguished by character design, level of detail, and the themes of the story depending on

the target audience. Exaggerated features: Large, expressive eyes, small mouths, and simplified noses to convey emotions effectively.

Stylized hair: Unique and colorful hairstyles that add to character individuality.

Dynamic action: Action scenes with dramatic poses and motion lines to depict speed and intensity.

Expressive emotions: Facial expressions and body language are used to convey feelings.

Background detail: Backgrounds can range from highly detailed and realistic to minimalistic, depending on the story's tone.

Screen tones: Manga often uses tones and patterns to add depth and texture.

Japanese anime and manga draw inspiration primarily from Japanese culture, history, mythology, and traditional art forms like ukiyo-e woodblock prints while also incorporating influences from Western animation, particularly early Disney films, leading to a unique blend of storytelling and visual style that reflects contemporary Japanese society and explores diverse themes across various genres like shonen, shoujo, josei and seinen; a key figure in this evolution is considered to be Osamu Tezuka, who pioneered many modern manga elements by combining Eastern and Western artistic influences.